

THE MORNING NEWS

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Snowden remains in Moscow airport limbo



MOSCOW (AFP) - US intelligence leaker Edward Snowden failed to emerge Wednesday from his month-long stay in a Moscow airport despite expectations, with his lawyer saying he had not yet received permission to enter Russia.

Hordes of media descended on Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport after reports that Snowden, who has applied for asylum in Russia, had received the document allowing him to leave the airport's transit zone and formally cross the Russian border.

But pro-Kremlin lawyer Anatoly Kucherena, who has been helping the American with his asylum request and met Snowden on Wednesday, appeared before the press without the world's most famous fugitive.

"As of today, this document (allowing him to leave) has not yet been given (to him)," Kucherena told reporters.

The confusion comes at a sensitive time for Moscow's relations with Washington, which wants to prosecute the former National Security Agency (NSA) contractor on

espionage charges for revealing a vast spying programme.

Secretary of State John Kerry called his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov to repeat US demands to extradite Snowden, a spokeswoman said.

"He reiterated our belief that Mr Snowden needs to be returned to the United States where he will face a fair trial," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters.

"Any move that would allow him to leave the airport would be deeply disappointing."

The White House for its part said it wanted "clarity" on Snowden's status.

Concerns have emerged the issue could derail a bilateral summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Barack Obama in Moscow in early September.

Snowden applied last week for temporary asylum in Russia, and he was set this week to receive a document allowing him to formally cross the border while his asylum request was being processed.

Aruba's Female Softball Team Selection to participate at World Games 2013 in Cali



On Thursday 25 July, the 9th edition of The World Games in Cali, Colombia, will begin with a spectacular opening ceremony in the Pascual Guerrero stadium in front of more than 35,000 spectators. Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos will be opening the event on behalf of the hosts of this multi-sport event, which is being held for the first time on the South American continent. On behalf of the International World Games Association, Ron Froehlich will welcome more than 4500 athletes and officials from 101 nations. IOC president Jacques Rogge will also participate in the opening ceremony. The World Games are held under the patronage of the IOC. The motto of The World Games 2013 is "Fair Play to the Planet".

Until 4 August, 201 medal events in 26 official and 5 invitational sports are on the agenda.

After winning gold in January in Bahamas by winning most of their games by knock-out and classifying for the first time in Aruba's fe-

male softball history for such a high leveled international game the Aruban selection are ready to represent their island at the World Games 2013. Last Tuesday evening the delegation consisting of players, and the technical staff left for Cali, Colombia to start preparing themselves for the games. Aruba can be proud as the selection trained intensively and vigorously and also played some

friendly games against visiting teams from the U.S. in preparation.

The sports Commission of Funds give their financial support to make this trip possible. The Commission wants to wish the players, Aruba Softball Foundation, coaches and managers good luck at the games!

The Morning News also wishes the girls good luck, make Aruba proud!

Obama defends economic vision...



President Barack Obama shakes hands as he arrives to speak about the economy, Wednesday, July 24, 2013, at Knox College in Galesburg, Ill. (see story on pg 11)

Modern technology is grand-except when it ain't...

See pg 4

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MIRA and Imeldahof join forces for therapeutic project



In every room at Imeldahof there is a painting on the wall. These wall paintings date back to the 60's, although it is not certain exactly which date, or who the artist was or who inspired the images painted. It is believed that one or more of the Catholic nuns are responsible for them, yet no one knows for certain. With the renovation of the rooms at Imeldahof, it was decided

to preserve these paintings believed to be at least 50 years old and part of the history of the institution.

Minister of Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar recently paid a visit to Imeldahof and admired the results of the renovation and restoration project that was realized by the children residing at Imeldahof - who call this place their home - and MIRA Foundation, School for Artistic Education and Art Review/Appreciation. The Minister was very impressed with the work done and approached UNOCA (foundation that promotes Aruban culture and art as well as its artists) to contribute to the project of investigating the stories behind the original paintings.

These works of art could have great historic value. In any case, they obviously had an impact on the lives of those who lived at Imeldahof. Hence, the importance of getting the stories documented. The Minister also appealed to anyone who may have information about the paintings to share this with Imeldahof and in so doing contribute to the investigation.

Imeldahof Director, Natalia Hernandez approached Jean Vieira of MIRA foundation regarding the protection of the paintings. This resulted in the start of an interesting project involving the children of Imeldahof. The result was a children's Camp during which the children received art instruction and were stimulated to express their own inspirations based on the paintings at Imeldahof. The children learned painting techniques, how to paint on canvas and to express their passion. It was a very fun week.

Continued on pg 3

Tropical Storm Dorian forms in Atlantic



MIAMI (AFP) - The Atlantic season's fourth tropical storm, dubbed Dorian, formed Wednesday, but did not present any danger on land, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

The center of the storm lay 410 miles (660 kilometers) to the west-southwest of the Cape Verde archipelago, off the coast of West Africa, with maximum sustained winds of 50 miles (85 kilometers) an hour.

According to the NHC, the storm was moving rapidly across the Atlantic Ocean at a speed of 21 miles per hour.

Dorian could strengthen

slightly in the coming hours, but, by Thursday, experts predicted it would weaken as it moved over cooler water.

Meteorologists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration warned in May this year's hurricane season would be more active than usual.

They predicted the formation of 13 to 20 named tropical storms and six to 11 hurricanes -- including three to six major ones, with winds stronger than 110 miles per hour.

The hurricane season lasts from June 1 to November 30.

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Embattled Weiner defies pressure to quit NY mayor race

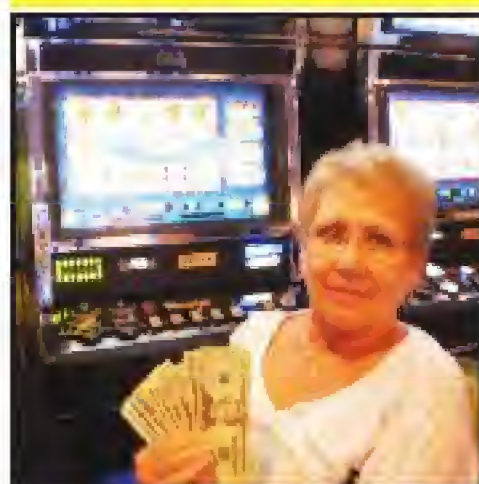
NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - Anthony Weiner on Wednesday defied mounting pressure to quit the New York mayoral race as critics branded him unfit to lead the city following new revelations about his online sexual escapades.

Besieged by a media scrum as he hit the campaign trail, the 43-year former congressman shrugged off step-down demands from critics including three of his rivals to succeed Michael Bloomberg.

"A lot of the same people who weren't crazy about me running in the first place now want me to get out, including my opponents," Weiner said.

The Democratic politician is hoping to ride out a storm in which New York's newspapers have unanimously backed the suggestion that he should, as the Daily News put it in a front page headline, "Beat It!"

Aura Casino: "Where players win"



Aura Casino at the Occidental Grand is the place to play right now! The cash prizes are flowing out and happy players are leaving with big smiles on their faces.

Recently, **Mr. Aridan Silva** was one of those happy winners. Mr. Silva found his



lucky streak in the newly renovated Aura Casino "where players win."

He won the nice amount of **\$2,500,-** while playing on



the brand new slot machine "Quick Hits."

Another happy winner was **Mrs. Phyllis Cappuccio**, who won a total amount of **\$1,814.55** at the Aura Casino while playing on the brand new slot machine "Aztec Dream."

Mrs. Sharon Estess also decided to join the winners. Mrs. Estess won a total amount of **\$1,000.75** playing the slot machine "Aztec Dreams."

And the winning just continues at the Aura Casino as **Mrs. Maria McNally** also finds her lucky streak in the Casino "where players win".

Mrs. McNally won a total amount of **\$2,500,-** at the Aura Casino at the Occiden-



tal Grand while playing on the brand new slot machine "Quick Hits."

Mrs. Vivcenza Scarpitta was also another happy winner after walking away with the nice sum of **\$2,500**, won on the slot machine "Quick Hits."

Staff & Management want to congratulate all the lucky winners and invite everyone to come and win at the Aura Casino at the Occidental Grand: "Where players win."

The center of Aruba has definitely shifted here at the Aura Casino, which happens to be smack-dab in the middle of all the action on Palm Beach.

Come and try your luck, maybe you can be one of Aura Casino's next lucky winners!

MIRA and Imeldahof join forces for therapeutic project

Continued from pg 2



With the collaboration of MIRA, pictures were taken and reproduced on large placards of PVC and hung in front of the wall of the original paintings.

Jean Vieira explained that the PVC will protect the wall paintings. It is a very unique experience of which the children can be proud of and, with time, the original paintings can be renovated. It was a very beautiful process as it provided an excellent time for children to spend their free time.

The painting therapy was beneficial for many of the children who come with unpleasant backgrounds to the home. According to Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar it gave them a sense of satisfaction, self esteem and pride to be able to contribute to the renovation of Imeldahof. She

visited each room to admire and appreciate each painting which was done with dedication, enthusiasm and passion.

According to Vieira the technical factor was not the essential part of the project. The central part was the sharing between teacher and student and how the student expresses his feeling in each painting.

This was the second time that Imeldahof organized an art project with Jean Vieira. By means of painting the children were able to release a lot of emotions. One child told how painting is an energy source that gives him strength to continue. Hernandez observed that the most important aspect of the project was the opportunity for the children to express themselves.



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Modern technology is grand-except when it ain't



As much as readily available consumer technology has supposedly made our lives easier, the fact is nothing is more frustrating when it is not functioning or is used incorrectly. This has certainly provided a wealth of ideas for Sci-fi and fantasy writers, as dystopian futures deal with the breakdown of society once our computers and other conveniences are removed from our lives.

Aside from these massive potential catastrophes of the imagination, we at THE MORNING NEWS have collectively found a day to day glitch in a most common use of technology that can be irritating in the extreme, and not a single one of our staff has not experienced this pet peeve.

Supermarket barcode scanners may be a godsend of efficiency for market owners and managers, but they still prove on a daily basis to be a pesky problem for consumers. It makes us long for the days when a price was placed on each product for shoppers to clearly discern, influencing our purchasing decisions.

We all know there is supposed to be a label on the shelf that provides the pricing

information, but, the times it has been lacking are too numerous to count. We sometimes suspect it may even be intentional in some cases, only listing the cheaper price on a smaller portion of a product, when the larger size is what we really want. We wonder if this misleading circumstance is perhaps a ploy? Often in a hurry to get home and prepare dinner for our families, we don't realize we have paid more than we thought we would for a product, unless we get a moment to study our register receipt.

I can recall decades back, my first husband, a rather humorous, observant person, remarking on how women stood mesmerized at the register watching the prices go ca-ching, ca-ching. Even then, without bar code scanners, we were vigilant about cashiers putting in the correct price. Now, in a system that continually dumbs down workers, we must be even more vigilant as the items are rung up at lightening speed, often without the cashier even giving them a glance to see if they are on special.

How often have you selected an item you would not usually buy, precisely because it was on sale? How-

ever, the computer programmers entering data have not kept up with the spur of the moment sale items of the day. A disagreement pursues. None of this is world-shaking, but it does hold up the line at the register if we catch it, or annoys us later, when we don't. These days, when we are all being so careful with our pennies, and the prices of consumer goods and necessary items are continually rising, there are few who are not trying to cut costs even in the smallest ways.

What are we asking here? Vigilance on the part of shopkeepers using the system...and integrity. Adequate scanning stations dispersed through the store that allows customers to check prices without having to hunt for them, would be nice. Admittedly, some have done that, but most not. Those with Android phones and iPhones are offered free bar scanning programs for their smartphones, but when tested, they did not give a reading on local supermarket products. Their purpose seem to be aimed at comparison shopping in the U.S. or reading those cute little square info codes, the rage among savvy marketers. Like many of the

smartphone apps, this is kind of fun and novel for awhile, but rather useless on a practical basis, particularly for us here on Aruba.

Will this issue bring civilization to a grinding halt as it is so entertainingly depicted in movies and television? Probably not. However,

for those who have a enough problems with advancing technology, it would be a great relief to be able to clearly see the correct price of whatever we wish to purchase, as we strive to balance our personal budgets...just like "the good old days."

By Rosalie Klein

Obama names Kennedy as Japan ambassador



WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama on Wednesday named Caroline Kennedy as US ambassador to Japan, in the biggest foray into public service for John F. Kennedy's sole surviving child.

The former first daughter, who long resisted running for public office, may enter a

larger limelight than anytime since her youth as she takes a key diplomatic role.

In an understated rollout to the long rumored nomination, Obama called Kennedy and several nominees to other posts "fine public servants."

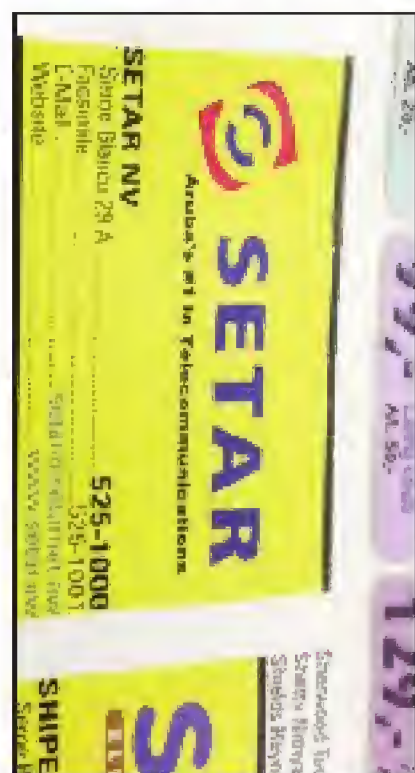
"Our nation will be well-served by these individuals, and I look forward to working with them in the months and years to come," he said in a statement.

Kennedy needs confirmation by the Senate, but she has no open critics and the body is led by the Democratic Party that reveres her father.

The 55-year-old, whom many Americans remember as a girl in the White House, was an early and close Obama supporter.

Continued on pg 6

Last day to make changes for 2014 Telephone Directory is Wednesday July 31st!



If a company's or client's name does not appear correctly in the Telephone Directory, there is still chance to make changes to this for the 2014 Telephone Directory. To make the changes clients can visit any Telshop with appropriate identification to request the necessary changes.

The deadline to register a name or address for publication in the 2014 edition is Wednesday July 31st. Currently the registration of names is according to the name and address registered in Setar's data base.

In the Setar Telephone Directory there is adequate information for all users pertaining to the products and services offered by Setar for residences, cellular, internet and cable. The directory also contains information on what is needed to apply for any of Setar's services. There's also a notification of all Setar's Telshop locations and operating hours in the Directory.

In the White Pages section you will find the numbers of all fixed lines of residences or businesses (those that are not private and unlisted). Cellular numbers requested for listing are also available. In the Yellow Pages section you will find information and numbers of all businesses on Aruba in different categories.

In addition, the Directory also has a Community Pages section listing information and numbers of all government departments, and other valuable information. The Telephone Directory is also accessible online at www.arubayp.com.

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Prince George: Britain's royal baby boy named at last



LONDON (AFP) - Britain's Prince William and his wife Kate on Wednesday named their baby boy George

Alexander Louis, sticking firmly to royal tradition with a first name used by six previous monarchs.

George was the bookmakers' clear favourite for the third-in-line to the throne as it pays apparent tribute to Queen Elizabeth II's father King George VI, the infant's great-great-grandfather, who died in 1952.

"The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are delighted to announce that they have named their son George Alexander Louis. The baby

will be known as His Royal Highness Prince George of Cambridge," Kensington Palace said in a statement.

The baby will not automatically be King George VII whenever he comes to the throne, however, as there have been reports that William's father Prince Charles may take that title when he becomes king.

The announcement came just hours after the queen visited William and Kate at Kensington Palace, their London residence, and met her

newborn great-grandson for the first time.

The 87-year-old monarch would have given final clearance for the name to ensure that it was in keeping with the traditions of the House of Windsor and a monarchy that has lasted more than 1,000 years.

The naming was relatively quick by royal standards. Charles and his first wife Diana took a week to announce William's name in 1982, while the world had to wait a month after Charles was born in 1948.

At least 35 dead, 200 injured in Spain train derailment: official

MADRID (AFP) - At least 35 people died and 200 people were injured when a train derailed in Galicia in northwestern Spain on Wednesday, the president of the regional government said.

"The number of dead will not be lower than 35," Alberto Nunez Feijoo told news radio Cadena Ser.

"There are bodies laying on the railway track. It's a Dante-esque scene," he added.

The Renfe railway company earlier said there were "several dead and injured" in the accident near the city of Santiago de Compostela, but could not immediately give a precise toll.

The train, carrying 238 passengers, originated in Madrid and was bound for the northwestern town of Fer-

rol as the Galicia region was preparing celebrations in honour of its patron saint James.

Television footage showed that four carriages had overturned and were lying on the tracks, at least one of them ripped apart with smoke billowing from the train.

The accident happened around 9:00pm (1900 GMT) "for unknown reasons", said a Renfe spokesman.

First pictures showed parts of the locomotive's roof in flames.

The crash came less than two weeks after a passenger train derailed just south of Paris, killing six people and injuring 30 more.

French rail operator SNCF said that derailment may have been caused by a connecting bar that came loose.

US suspends delivery of F-16s to Egypt: Pentagon

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States has delayed plans to supply Egypt with an additional four F-16 fighter jets due to unrest gripping the country, the Pentagon said Wednesday.

"Given the current situation in Egypt we do not believe it is appropriate to move forward at this time with the delivery of F-16s," spokesman George Little told reporters.

"We remain committed to the US-Egypt defense relationship as it remains a foundation of our broader

strategic partnership with Egypt and serves as a pillar of regional stability," he said.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel informed Egypt's army chief, General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, of the decision in a phone call earlier Wednesday, Little said.

The army chief, who led a coup on July 3 that ousted president Mohamed Morsi, called for mass protests on Wednesday to back a crackdown on what he called "terrorism and violence" by Morsi supporters.

Obama names Kennedy as Japan ambassador

Continued from pg 4

When the then senator was locked in a tough fight for the Democratic presidential nomination against perceived front-runner Hillary Clinton, Kennedy threw her family's prestige behind Obama by calling him "a president like my father."

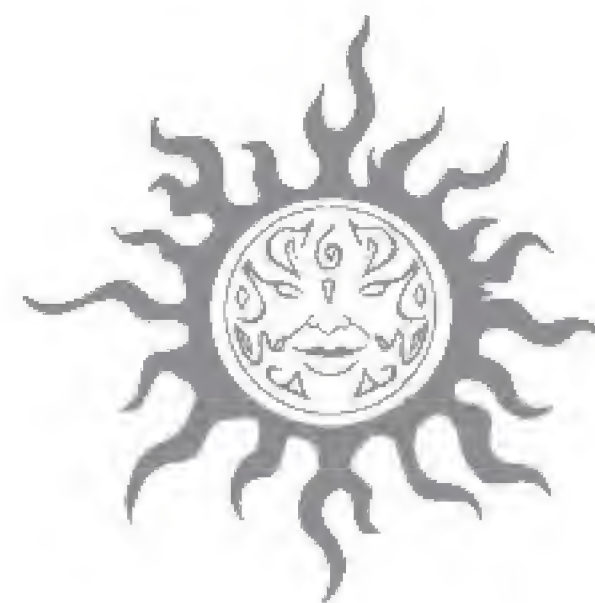
Kennedy has limited experience in foreign affairs and is not known for her connection to Japan, although her father was injured in World War II's Pacific theater.

The prospect of Kennedy's nomination had already been welcomed by Japan, a close US ally which is accustomed to high-profile US ambassadors.

Previous US ambassadors have included former vice president Walter Mondale, former speaker of the House Tom Foley and former Senate majority leader Howard Baker.

By contrast, Obama's first-term ambassador John Roos -- known primarily as a fund-raiser -- was seen by some Japanese commentators as a sign of a lower US priority on the country. Roos, however, was later praised for handling the round-the-clock US response to the March 2011 tsunami disaster.

If confirmed, Kennedy would be the first woman to take up the post, a feat sure to be noticed in a country that has historically ranked lower than other wealthy nations in terms of women's empowerment.



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US still up for warming Venezuela ties after fresh row

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States said Wednesday it is still open to improving ties with Venezuela after Caracas called off the rap-prochement, accusing Washington of meddling in its internal affairs.

The two nations -- which were often at odds during the 14-year rule of the recently deceased Hugo Chavez -- had hinted at warmer ties after a meeting of top diplomats last month.

But then Venezuela reacted angrily to a statement by Samantha Power -- tapped to be the next US ambassador to the United Nations -- who vowed to stand up to "repressive regimes" and challenge

the "crackdown on civil society being carried out in countries like Cuba, Iran, Russia, and Venezuela."

President Nicolas Maduro -- the handpicked successor to the leftist Chavez -- then accused Washington of meddling in Venezuela's affairs, condemning its "imperialist attitude."

Washington has yet to recognize Maduro's victory in a disputed April election to replace Chavez.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Wednesday she was not aware of Maduro's comments, and she insisted the United States was still committed to improving ties.

"We obviously have not interjected into any election," she said.

"We are open to having a positive relationship with Venezuela moving forward. That's what our focus is on, and we still are leaving the door open for that."

During his 14 years in power Chavez railed against US "imperialism" and cultivated close ties with Cuba, Iran and Syria.

But despite the fact that Washington and Caracas have not exchanged ambassadors since 2010, oil-rich Venezuela still exports some 900,000 barrels a day to the United States.

International News

Mexico security forces battle for order after violence

MORELIA (AFP) - Security forces in a Mexican state plagued by drug violence were working to restore order on Wednesday after clashes which left 22 dead.

On Tuesday, coordinated attacks by armed men on security forces in six places in the state of Michoacan led to a series of bloody gun battles and casualties on both sides.

Two federal police officers were shot dead while authorities estimated that 20 "presumed criminals" were killed during fighting.

The clashes in the troubled Tierra Caliente region were the worst since the army and federal police launched a joint operation in May to protect the local population from the notorious Knights Templar cartel.

The territory has seen tensions escalate since the recent emergence of several heavily-armed vigilante groups set up to combat the Knights Templar gang.

Mexico's government on Wednesday called for calm in the region as security forces worked to restore order.

Tuesday's violence erupted when attackers armed with high-powered rifles and grenades mounted an assault on several police checkpoints.

Neither local nor federal officials have identified the groups responsible for the violence. However the Reforma newspaper, citing unidentified security sources, blamed the attacks on the Knights Templar cartel.

Interior Minister Miguel

Angel Osorio Chong meanwhile canceled a scheduled a press conference with visiting US Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.


Michoacan was the first state to see troops when former Mexico president Felipe Calderon decided to deploy tens of thousands of soldiers across the country to crack down on drug cartels in 2006.

Mexico's drug war has left an estimated 70,000 people dead to date, while Michoacan has witnessed the rise of the increasingly powerful Knights Templar gang.

Drug gangs have existed for decades in Michoacan, a hotbed of marijuana and opium production and home to makeshift labs used to produce synthetic drugs for the United States.

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US Spanish-language Univision reaches viewer milestone



file photo; Univision hosting presidential forum in 2012

MIAMI (AFP) - US Spanish-language broadcaster Univision said Wednesday it has become the No. 1 network in primetime for key demographics this month compared to its English competitors.

The Miami-based network said it reached the milestone among adults aged 18 to 49 and 18 to 34 during a period of audience tallying that ended today.

It also said it came out on top for viewers aged 12 to 34. In all those categories, Fox came in second, it said.

Across all ages and times, meanwhile, Univision is

among the most-viewed four networks in the country, according to an analysis by The Miami Herald.

At 51 million, Hispanics represent the largest minority in the United States and Wednesday's announcement reflects the community's growing clout.

"The growth of Univision is indicative of the growing importance of Hispanics in the United States," Cesar Conde, president of Univision Networks, who is of Peruvian origin, told AFP.

He called the latest numbers a "milestone for television."

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Health & Living

Rape, torture claims at Australian asylum-seeker camp



SYDNEY (AFP) - Australian Immigration Minister Tony Burke Wednesday described as "horrific" explosive claims that asylum-seekers at one of its processing camps in Papua New Guinea are being raped and tortured.

A former senior official at the Manus Island facility also detailed "almost daily" self-harm and attempted suicides while warning weapons were being accumulated in readiness for a break-out attempt.

"I've never seen human beings so destitute, so helpless and so hopeless before," Rod St George, the former head of occupational health and safety at the centre, told SBS television.

The allegations come just days after Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced that the facility would be massively expanded to accommodate 3,000 people, from the original 600, as part of a new hardline plan to send all asylum-seeker arrivals to Papua New Guinea.

"I took the position with every intention of making the place a safer environment but it proved quite rapidly to be an impossibility," St George said.

Disgusted by what he saw

at the facility, which has been off-limits to the Australian media, St George quit.

Under the new hardline policy, unauthorised boatpeople arriving in Australian waters will now be banished to Manus Island and elsewhere in the Pacific nation for assessment, and even if found to be "genuine refugees" they will have no chance of being settled in Australia.

Instead, they will have to remain in poverty-stricken and lawless PNG, be sent back home or to third countries.

St George, a former prison guard, said up to half a dozen young men were assaulted and raped by fellow inmates, while others were beaten and forced to sew their lips together to protest over conditions.

The men who were sexually assaulted were sent back to the same tents as the people who raped them, he claimed.

"There was nothing that could be done for these young men who were considered vulnerable, which in many cases is just a euphemism for men who are being raped," he said.

He added that one man had his eardrum perforated when he had solvent poured into his ear, and criticised immigration

department officials at the camp for their handling of the cases, adding that the PNG nationals employed as guards were not up to the task.

Burke said he would fly to Manus Island this week to investigate, and any troublemakers would be removed from the camp.

"The allegations were horrific. I wish I'd had an opportunity to get the specifics of them earlier than last night because I would've started acting on them earlier than last night," Burke said.

Burke is also due to visit Australia's other main processing camp on Nauru in the Pacific, which was rocked by riots that razed buildings on Saturday following Rudd's announcement of his new boat-people policy.

Australia has struggled to stem an influx of asylum-seekers arriving by boat, with record numbers turning up in 2012 and more than 15,600 so far in 2013.

Hundreds have drowned making the journey, with another boat sinking off Indonesia late Tuesday with casualties feared, although rescuers said at least 157 had been saved.

'Embryonic-like' stem cells can't be found: US study



WASHINGTON (AFP) - A US company that promoted its stem cell discovery in partnership with the Vatican has come under fresh scrutiny by independent scientists who said Wednesday the cells do not exist.

Scientists at Stanford University said in the journal Stem Cell Reports they could not replicate NeoStem's findings of very small embryonic-like cells (VSELs) in the bone marrow of lab mice.

These cells have been touted by the New York-based company as an ethical alternative to stem cells requiring the destruction of human embryos, with the same regenerative ability to transform into other cell types in the body.

Earlier this year, NeoStem announced plans to launch the first human trials of the cells for bone growth.

Weissman's study is the first to evaluate the biological potency of the cells, and it found they could not transform into blood cells and contained very little DNA.

Instead, researchers found that what purported to be VSELs -- about five micrometers in diameter -- were either debris or dead cells.

"A true pluripotent cell would be able to differentiate into any tissue type," said Weissman. "But we couldn't confirm that cells of that size or phenotype could generate hematopoietic cells with any reliability."

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Sci-Tech

US tech firms losing business over PRISM

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Revelations about the US government's vast data collection programs have already started hurting American technology firms, according to an industry survey released this week.

The Cloud Security Alliance said 10 percent of its non-US members have cancelled a contract with a US-based cloud provider, and 56 percent said they were less likely to use an American company.

The online survey was taken between June 25 and July 9, following media revelations of programs that collect the phone logs of millions of

Americans, as well as Internet data from the accounts of foreign targets, as a way to thwart terror attacks.

The organization received a total of 456 responses from its member base, about half of which were outside the United States. The alliance includes some 48,000 individual members and corporations involved in security and other Internet-based businesses.

US technology firms have asked the government to release more details about the so-called PRISM program and other data collection efforts, claiming the roles of the companies have been misinterpreted. Some companies say non-US customers are less likely to trust American firms with their data following the revelations.

In the survey, 36 percent of US firms polled said the revelations would make it more difficult for their company to do business outside the United States, while 64 percent said it would not.

Some 91 percent of the members surveyed said companies should be allowed to publish summary information about data they provide to the National Security Agency or other US government entities.

Putin to visit Iran for nuclear talks



MOSCOW (AFP) - President Vladimir Putin is to visit Iran in August to try to restart talks on Tehran's controversial nuclear drive, a Russian newspaper reported.

Putin's visit is planned for mid-August, shortly after Iran's moderate new president Hassan Rowhani takes office on August 3, Kommersant reported, citing sources in the Kremlin and the Iranian foreign ministry.

Moscow hopes the visit will provide impetus to restart the currently stalled talks on Iran's nuclear programme, Kommersant reported.

It cited a source in the Iranian foreign ministry as saying the trip would take place August 12-13. It said a Kremlin source confirmed the trip, but said it was not yet decided whether it would last one or two days.

Western governments have expressed cautious hopes for a change in tone in talks after the June election of Rowhani, a centrist cleric who has

vowed to engage constructively with the international community in a bid to ease the burden of EU and US sanctions on Iran's economy.

Russia is a member of the so-called P5+1 group made up of the five UN Security Council permanent members plus Germany that has for years been engaged in talks with Iran to try to persuade it to curb sensitive nuclear activities.

After the last round in Almaty in April, the talks were put on hold as Iran prepared to choose a successor to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Ahmadinejad's eight-year term was marked by a defiant expansion of the Iranian nuclear programme, which fuelled Western suspicions that it masked a drive for a weapons capability.

Both the European Union and the United States slapped tough sanctions on Iran's key oil and banking sectors which have taken a heavy toll on the economy.

Google rolls out new Nexus tablet



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Google on Wednesday unveiled a slim, powerful new Nexus tablet computer, fielding a new Android-driven champion to challenge iPad maker Apple.

The seven-inch tablet made by Taiwan-based Asus and bearing the Google Nexus brand is designed to be easily slipped into a pocket or handbag and allow easy access to rich online content or services.

Nexus 7 is about two millimeters thinner and slightly narrower than its predecessor, which was released a year ago.

Nexus 7 has a high-definition screen and speakers that allow for virtual surround sound listening of films, games, or music.

More than 70 million tablets powered by Google's Android software have been activated worldwide, according to Pichai.

DO NOT



LITTER

COMICS



PICKLES



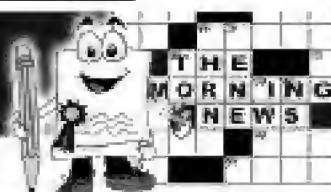
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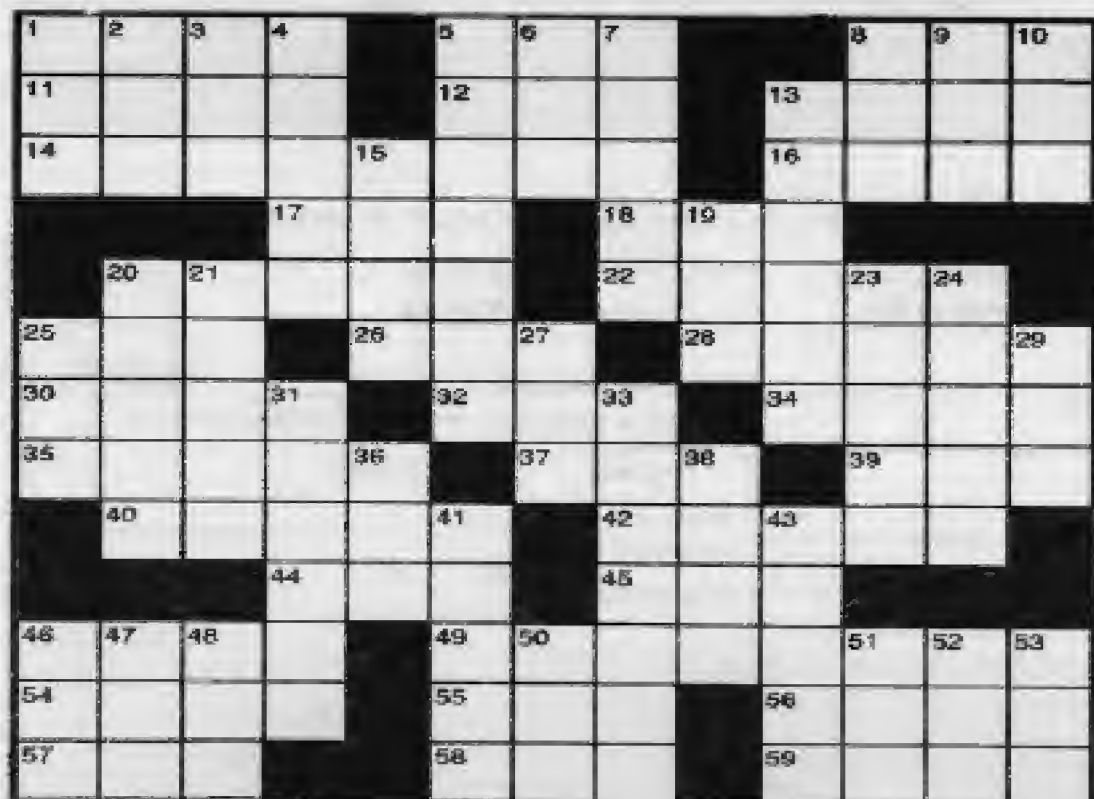
ACROSS

1. Shingle site
5. Frat house letter
8. "The Voice" network
11. Perry Mason portrayer
12. Used a match
13. Backsplash piece
14. Spray with water
16. Not fooled by
17. Make a stab at
18. Movie studio letters
20. Like an

22. Arrange (2 wds.)
25. Three, in Rome
26. It follows uno
28. Copier's need
30. Explosion sound
32. "Ball ____"
34. Underground excavation
35. Throw a tantrum (2 wds.)
37. Opp. of SSE
39. Grid scores (abbr.)
40. Lauder of cosmetics
42. Chops up
44. Tariff
45. Alien's ride (abbr.)

46. Summit
49. Appointment log
54. Fabricator
55. Liverpool's locale (abbr.)
56. Furnace fuel
57. Eddie of vaudeville
58. Drain unclogger
59. Radiator output
- DOWN**
1. Slugger's goal (abbr.)
2. "____ Man Higgins"
3. Bobby of hockey
4. Crunchy corn chip
5. Toddler's

- modeling medium (hyph.)
6. Great success
7. Details
8. Author Anais ____
9. Sandwich letters
10. Company's head (abbr.)
13. Drum type (hyph.)
15. Alumnus, for short
19. Procure
20. Reinforce
21. Is an Avis customer
23. Band together
24. Is undecided
25. Schedule abbr.
27. ____ Rafael
29. Dweller (abbr.)
31. Bad bowler's trough
33. Coddle
36. Tiny vegetable
38. Harriet, to Ozzie
41. Outdo
43. Type of shell
46. Candidate Landon
47. AFL-____
48. Flowery month
50. However much
51. Anonymous surname
52. Wanted poster initials
53. No longer working (abbr.)



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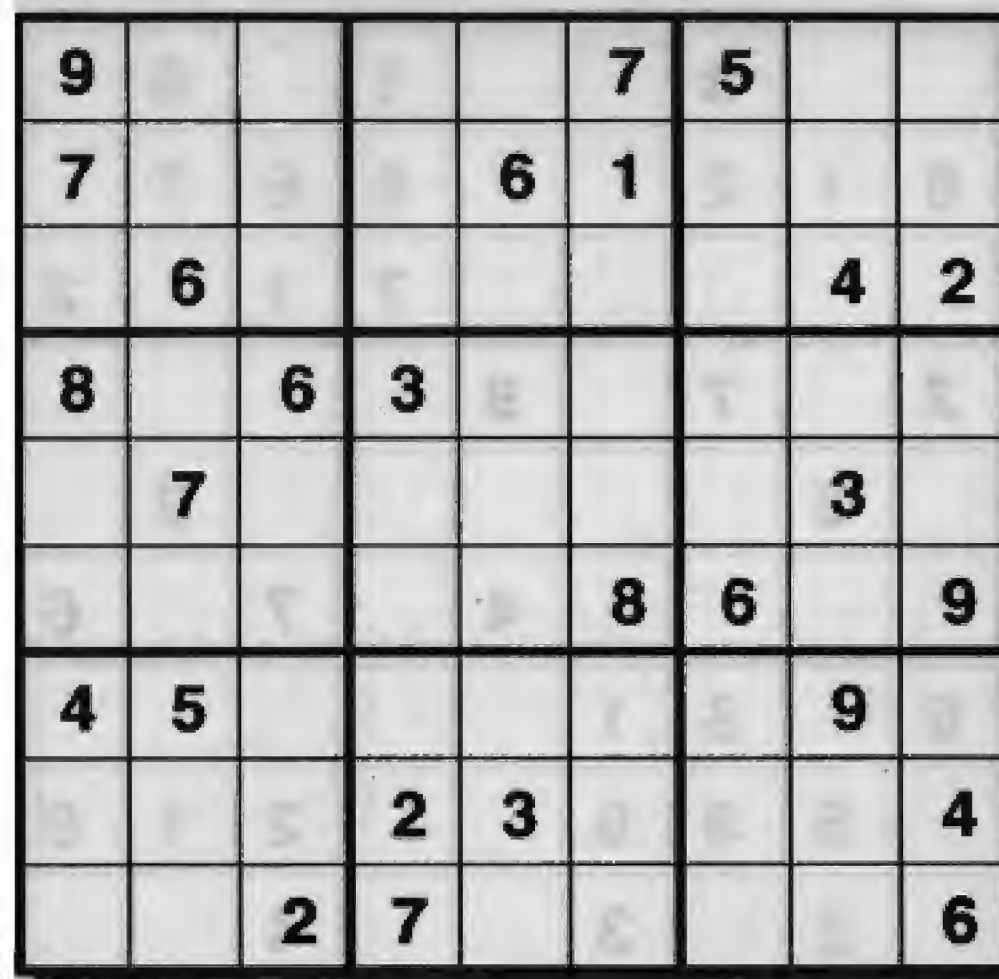
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Horacio Oduber Hospital
Tel.587-4300

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POLICE HDQS
Telephone 100

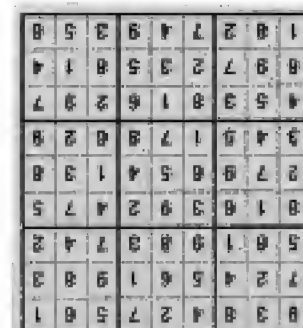
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Sudoku



SOLUTION



Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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IMF drops plan to back Argentina in debt case

WASHINGTON (AFP) - International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde has dropped a plan to back Argentina in a legal battle over bond repayments because of US opposition, an IMF spokesman said Wednesday.

Argentina appealed to the US Supreme Court in June to overturn a New York federal judge's ruling in favor of private creditors seeking bond repayment from the country's 2001 debt default.

The IMF had planned to submit the "friend of the court" brief to the highest US court, a type of brief filed by someone who is not party to a case.

Lagarde's recommendation for the filing was "premised" on the support of the United States, the IMF's largest stakeholder, the Fund spokesman said.

Without US support, the action "would not be appropriate, under the Fund's legal and policy framework, for the IMF to file this brief without that support," he said.

"The lack of US support in this case could undermine the effectiveness of the Fund's filing" and put the IMF in the middle of a dispute between two members, breaching its duty of neutrality, he said.

The conclusion that it would be improper to file a brief without support from the court's host country would be

the same no matter which country was involved, he added.

The New York judge last October ordered Argentina to pay \$1.3 billion to the two US hedge funds, MNL Capital and Aurelius, which have refused to accept the country's debt restructuring.

Argentina defaulted on \$100 billion in debt in 2001. It later was able to get acceptance from about 92 percent of its bondholders for two restructurings, in 2005 and 2010.

The funds, which Buenos Aires labels "vulture funds," had bought their bonds on the market at a discount and are seeking full repayment.

According to the hedge funds, the value of the bonds is now \$1.47 billion.

Argentina has contended that its offer to the two hedge funds satisfied the requirements of the "pari passu" or equal treatment clause under which the bonds were issued.

Buenos Aires fears that full repayment would require it to repay the restructured bonds in full as well, which some analysts say could force the country back into default.

FINANCE

Obama defends economic vision, as battles loom

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama on Wednesday launched a ground campaign to defend his vision for the US economy, vowing to revitalize the American middle class in the face of a hostile Congress.

Obama made a robust defense of his stalled economic initiatives, which have been bottled up in the Republican-led House of Representatives - the branch of Congress responsible for managing the nation's checkbook.

The president planned to visit three US cities over two days, for a series of addresses on accelerating economic growth and creating jobs.

The speeches, which come six months into his second term, started yesterday at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, which he first visited as a newly-elected senator eight years ago.

Obama told the crowd in his adopted home state that generations of middle class prosperity had begun to stall, in recent years, leaving the economy hamstrung.

"By the time I took office in 2009, we all knew that the bubble had burst, costing millions of Americans their jobs, their homes, and their savings," the president told the crowd. "The decades-long erosion of middle-class security was laid bare for all to see and feel."

But, Obama continued: "Today, five years after the start of that Great Recession, America has fought its way back."

The US president told the crowd that his administration helped to begin the rescue of the nation's economic stagnation, rescuing the auto industry,

revamping the health care system and shoring up the financial sector, among other achievements.

"Thanks to the grit and resilience of the American people, we've cleared away the rubble from the financial crisis and begun to lay a new foundation for stronger, more durable economic growth," he said.

But the president's efforts to reframe the debate over the economy comes with Congress reloading for a new round of battles over raising the debt ceiling and other economic fights.

Obama and Republican lawmakers are bracing for renewed clashes over spending and the federal budget, which threaten to hurt an economy finally showing signs of stabilizing after tumbling into a deep economic trough.

Republicans have dismissed Obama's focus on the economy as a thinly veiled excuse to seek more spending.

"If the president was serious about helping our economy, he wouldn't give another speech, he'd reach out and actually work with us," House Speaker John Boehner said Tuesday.

The president hopes to negotiate a new fiscal compromise by October -- the end of the current fiscal year -- in order to head off the threat of a government shutdown that could further damage the sluggish recovery.

Today he heads to Florida, where he will give a speech at the Jacksonville Port Authority.

Since his last speech in Galesburg, the United States suffered its worst economic crisis in two generations before a halting recovery finally began to take hold.

He added however that there is still a ways to go for the economic rebound to solidify.

He said the trends of a winner-take-all economy that he spoke about in 2005 "have been made worse by the recession."

As the November 2014 midterm elections loom in the distance, the US debt ceiling will provide another likely battleground in addition to the budget battles.

On Tuesday, Boehner vowed that "we're not going to raise the debt ceiling without real cuts in spending. It's as simple as that."

Beginning in 2011, House Republicans have used the threat of the looming debt limit as a bargaining chip for spending cuts. The White House, for its part, has insisted that Obama will not negotiate over the debt limit, deepening the stalemate.

A new poll Wednesday, one of several this week, showed that stalemate in Washington was exacting a political toll on both sides.

The survey by the Wall Street Journal and NBC gave the president his lowest job approval ratings since August 2011.

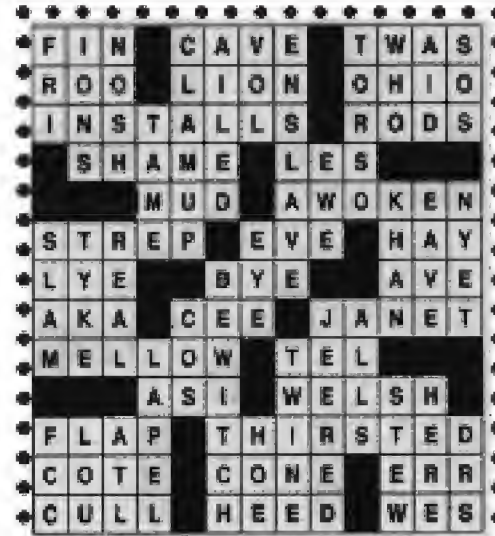
The continued political standoff has proved equally costly to Congress, with 83 percent of Americans saying that they disapprove of the job US lawmakers are doing.

Obama's 45 percent job performance figure represented a three point fall from just one month ago.

The rating is just one point higher than his all-time presidential low, which he hit in August 2011.

| Daily Exchange Rates | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Current as of: 07/24/2013 | Currency Code | Buying rate banknotes | Buying Cheques | Selling Rate |
| U.S.A. | USD | 1.77 | 1.78 | 1.80 |
| Dutch Antilles | ANG | 98.00 | 100.00 | 100.20 |
| Canada | CAD | 1.77 | 1.79 | 1.75 |
| Britain | GBP | 2.80 | 2.85 | 2.78 |
| Switzerland | CHF | 191.71 | 192.43 | 191.80 |
| Netherlands | EUR | 230.59 | 232.69 | 238.29 |
| Sweden | SEK | 25.91 | 26.63 | 28.12 |
| Denmark | DKK | 30.23 | 30.95 | 32.19 |
| Norway | NOK | 30.67 | 31.39 | 30.86 |
| Japan | JPY | 214.88 | 216.84 | 179.71 |
| (per 10,000) | | | | |

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Facebook quarterly profit \$331 million as revenue rises.

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Facebook surprised Wall Street with stronger-than-expected earnings for the second quarter Wednesday on a sharp rise in revenues, sparking a 16 percent jump in its share price in after-hours trade. "The work we've done to make mobile the best Facebook experience is showing good results and provides us with a solid foundation for the future," said Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg as the social network reported a profit of \$331 million for shareholders.

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Drunk Canadian swims to United States



OTTAWA (AFP) - A Canadian looking to prove his swimming skills, and drunk, provoked an international rescue when he jumped into the Detroit River and swam to the United States, police said Wednesday.

John Morillo, 47, told the Windsor Star after being released from custody on Tuesday the stunt was "very stupid" but he relishes now being able to boast to friends about his exploit.

"I was drinking, but I wasn't really drunk," Morillo told the Canadian daily. "The thing is, I've been telling people I'm going to swim across the river for years and they're like 'yah, yah, blah, blah, you can't make it.' So, I don't know, last night I just decided it was the time to go."

Morillo reportedly managed to swim across the river separating Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, and have his picture taken by curious passers-by, and was heading back when he noticed a stir around him.

His neighbor back on the Canadian shore had called police when she lost sight of him in the treacherous waters.

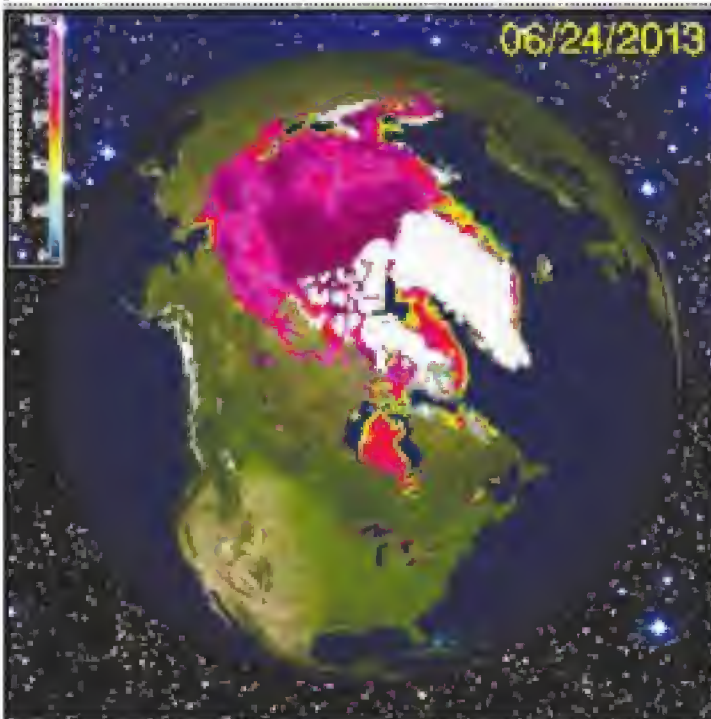
A search was launched in the middle of the night involving Canadian police as well as both US and Canadian coast guards, three boats and a helicopter. He was eventually found on the Canadian side of the Detroit River at 12:50 am local time (0450 GMT), nearly two hours after he first jumped into the river.

"As soon I saw the helicopters going by and the boats looking for me, I was like 'oh, this is really stupid,'" Morillo told the Star.

Authorities said he has been charged with public intoxication and faces fines of up to Can\$25,000 (US\$24,200) for swimming in a shipping channel.

He also has been barred from the waterfront.

Arctic methane breach an 'economic time bomb'



PARIS (AFP) - Massive leakage of methane from thawing shoreline in the Arctic would devastate the world's climate and economy, a trio of scientists warned on Wednesday.

Billions of tonnes of this potent greenhouse gas are locked in the shallow frozen shelf of the Arctic Ocean, which warms when summer sea ice retreats as a result of the greenhouse-gas effect, they said in a contribution to Nature.

The team modelled what would happen if 50 billion tonnes, or gigatonnes (Gt), of methane escaped over a decade from the floor of the East Siberian Sea, covering two million square kilometres (772,200 square miles) of the

Arctic Ocean off northeastern Russia.

"The methane release would bring forward the date at which the global mean temperature rise exceeds two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) by between 15 and 35 years," said Chris Hope of Cambridge Judge Business School, part of England's University of Cambridge.

Gail Whiteman, a professor of sustainability, management and climate change at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, described the threat as an "invisible time bomb".

"The mean impacts of just this one effect -- \$60 trillion -- approaches the \$70 trillion value of the world economy in 2012."

The high cost is explained by damage to the climate system, reflected in worse floods, droughts, storms and heat stress, she said.

Eighty percent of the effects would occur in poorer economies in Africa, Asia and

South America, according to their model, called PAGE09.

The estimates are based on how the added methane would affect two trends -- one for existing greenhouse-gas emissions, which are very high, and the other for lower emissions giving a more than one-in-two chance of meeting the UN's 2C warming target.

In an email exchange with AFP, Hope said that if the 50 Gt were released over 20 years, from 2015-2035, the cost would be around \$64.5 trillion.

If the release were spread over 30 years, from 2015-2045, it would be \$66.2 trillion.

"This is because more of the methane remains in the atmosphere in the period when impacts are expected to be higher in the latter half of this century," he said.

If 25 Gt were released, the cost in all scenarios would be roughly halved.

Scientists have long worried about methane locked up in shoreline sediments and also in permafrost on land.

Methane is 25 times more effective than carbon dioxide (CO₂) in trapping solar heat.

The big concern is that the methane, if released to the at-

mosphere, adds to global warming, which thus accelerates the thaw, adding more gas and amplifying the temperature rise -- a "positive feedback," or vicious circle in climate terms.

But evidence for such a threat is sketchy, research into it is meagre and the conclusions often contested. Some experts also say there could be as-yet unknown mechanisms in permafrost thaw that may limit the methane leakage.

In 2008, Russian scientists writing in the journal Geophysical Research said they estimated 540 Gt of methane to be stored in the Siberian Arctic shelf. Of this, up to 50 Gt could be considered as being "highly possible for abrupt release at any time".

In 2010, another Russian team, reporting in Science, said they had found large amounts of leakage from perforated permafrost on the shelf.

In contrast, in 2011, another team, also Russian, said they saw evidence of outgassing in the East Siberian Sea. But they attributed this to a long-delayed consequence of the end of the last Ice Age, not from recent changes in the Arctic Ocean.

Chef's Table, "A hidden gem" close to both Palm and Eagle Beach resorts



--Tucked away down the main Bubali Road, just a mile from the Super Food market is one of Aruba's most charming eateries, known for fine food and exceptional surrounding. Chef's Table has been described by loyal patrons as "a hidden gem," and the attention to quality by the amiable staff will prompt the new visitor to agree.

Delightful decorations of original art set the mood in this converted landmark



country home, divided into several cozy rooms. There is also the choice of dining al fresco in the central gardens, one of the great options of eating out on Aruba.

A gourmet menu includes such unique items as an individual Mediterranean Fish Pot, served with pasta, or a creative sauce for the very fresh catch of the day. Guest particularly rave about their



"Surf & Turf," of lobster and filet mignon, uniquely marinated duck breast, and "Black & White Sesame Tuna" served with a Lemon-Zucchini Risotto.

Chef's Table is one of those few restaurants you can count on to be open both Sunday and Monday, as Wednesday is their day off. Don't miss the opportunity to



try this moderately priced, gourmet treat in most pleasant surroundings, and save just a tad of room for their famous "tapas" style desserts, offering a shot glass of sweetness, the perfect end to a delectable meal and most pleasant evening. Visit their website <http://www.chefstablesaruba.com/> to meet Chef Martin and the crew.

La Linda Department Store-where Aruba shops!



Calman and Anna Hochman

--Though Aruba has its share of designer brand stores and shopping malls, ask almost any islander where they shop, and they will likely tell you "La Linda." Spread out over several specialty stores on the Caya Betico Croes, La Linda was Aruba's first and foremost department stores, where, for decades, one could find anything and everything, and after more than 70 years, still can make that claim.

It is also a distinctly family operation, with the personal touch and supervision of the Hochmans, who take their reputation for stocking "the best quality for the best price" very se-

riously. It all started with Calman Hochman, a Jewish Polish immigrant who opened his first small shop with his Aruban wife Anna, carrying "a little bit of everything that anyone could need." This was before WWII, when the present head of the company, Jaime, hadn't even been born yet. Many of their sales help have also been with the store for over two decades, and "it is very much like family here," he admits. Their loyal patrons also look forward to being helped by shop girls who have become friends, knowing they will get great and honest service.

To this day, La Linda is particularly known for its huge fabrics and notions department, the first destination for many on an island where making your own clothes is still an everyday practice. Without question, the store offers the greatest diversity of selection in nearly every department, and they have now consolidated them all into one store; four floors containing a wealth of choices in clothing for men, women and children, house wares, bedding, sporting goods, luggage, shoes, jewelry, decorative items and more.

"The present store is a work in progress," asserts Jaime, as they continue to renovate and enlarge what had been only the men's store and warehouse in the past. Normally closed for a 2 hour lunch/siesta in the old island way, shoppers will soon find it open daily for the entire day, from 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM, as they are on Saturday's, with a bright, charming eatery installed on the top floor.

from all over the world, always with an eye towards quality. They pay particular attention to their Women's Department specializing in over-sized garments, stocking larger sizes exhibiting distinctive dash and style.

For travelers who have perhaps lost their luggage, they can offer a quick fix for all the family which won't break your budget, including some very stylish new suitcases.



Unique, quality goods in all departments

La Linda is continually expanding their inventory, with their acquisitions department continually seeking out interesting, unique, and moderately priced goods

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Football: Guardiola's Bayern see off all-change Barca

MUNICH (AFP) - Pep Guardiola's Bayern Munich enjoyed a 2-0 win at home to his former employers Barcelona in Wednesday's friendly as the Spaniards only played their stars until the break.

Although Barcelona left new Brazil signing Neymar at home, first-team regulars Javier Mascherano, Adriano, Alex Song and Alexis Sanchez, plus Argentina's Lionel Messi played the first-half in Munich.

Goals by Philipp Lahm and Mario Mandzukic either side of half-time was enough to give the Champions League winners victory over the Catalan giants at a sold-out Allianz Arena in front of 71,137 fans.

With the Uli Hoeness Cup on offer, in honour of Bayern's president, this was Munich's second pre-season title in four days having won Sunday's

Telekom Cup final with a 5-1 win at hosts Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Barcelona had something to prove on their first return to Munich since their 4-0 drubbing in April's Champions League semi-final, which the Germans had backed up with a 3-0 win in Spain.

But with Gerardo Martino back in Spain, ahead of Friday's official unveiling as Barcelona new manager, caretaker coach Jordi Roura had no qualms about blooding his entire bench of juniors at half-time.

Bayern now travel to face Borussia Dortmund on Saturday in the German Super Cup in a repeat of the Champions League final, which the Bavarians won 2-1 at Wembley in May.

BMW pulls out of World Superbikes

FRANKFURT (AFP) - German car maker BMW said Wednesday it plans to pull out of the World Superbike Championship at the end of 2013 as part of a wider shake-up of its activities.

"With effect from the end of the 2013 season, BMW Motorrad will terminate its commitment in the FIM Superbike World Championship in order to strengthen the customer sports programme," BMW said in a statement.

"The main focus and some of the resources of BMW Motorrad's commitment to sport will switch to other motorsport activities like the successful international customer sports programme from 2014 on."

BMW Motorrad Motorsport entered the FIM Superbike World Championship in 2009. Its riders are Marco Melandri and Chaz Davies.

The unit's general manager Andrea Buzzoni said he was "sorry about the decision," but accepted it.

The current year "is a good year, the atmosphere within the team is great and also our riders are doing an excellent job. We are satisfied with the current results and, of course, we will keep working hard," Buzzoni said.



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SPORTS

Football: Real fight back to draw at Lyon



PARIS (AFP) - Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti saw his side come back from two goals down on his return to France on Wednesday as they held Lyon to a 2-2 draw at Stade Gerland.

Ancelotti, who quit Paris Saint-Germain after winning the French title in his first season, fielded a strong line-up including Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo, Germany's Mesut Ozil and former Lyon star Karim Benzema.

The two teams know each other well after crossing swords in the Champions League 10 times since 2005 with spoils shared at three wins apiece and produced an entertaining evening of pre-season football in front of a packed house.

Midfield youngster Clement Grenier gave the

partisan crowd a fair return for their money after just 20 minutes with a spectacular goal from distance that flew under the bar and past Diego Lopez.

Argentine Lisandro Lopez, who has been at the centre of transfer rumours in recent weeks, then gave the seven-time champions a cushion with a close range finish before Real began their comeback with 11 minutes remaining.

Spanish under-21 international Alvaro Borja converted a penalty before Real levelled through new signing Casemiro of Brazil with just six minutes left.

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez says Cristiano Ronaldo will end his career with the Spanish giants and has denied receiving any bids for the Portugal forward.



MADRID (AFP) - Relatives of three Spanish mountaineers missing for days high in the mountains of northern Pakistan said on Wednesday they were counting on better weather so rescuers could resume searching. The three went missing in a storm after scaling the 8,068-metre (26,469-foot) Gasherbrum-I peak on Sunday, the families and trek organisers said. The families named the three missing men as Abel Alonso, Xevi Gomez and Alvaro Paredes. Pakistan is home to five of the world's 14 peaks over 8,000 metres, including the world's second-highest mountain, K2, but conditions are harsh and sometimes deadly.



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Alex Rodriguez with no intention of making a deal with MLB

-- Facing the threat of a lifetime ban from Major League Baseball for alleged use of performance-enhancing drugs, Alex Rodriguez has decided to take his private battle with the New York Yankees public.

In a media blitz, Rodriguez's representatives, including a doctor who disputed the Yankees' interpretation of an MRI showing Rodriguez had a quad strain, began supplying details to support A-Rod's belief that the Yankees and MLB were conspiring to keep the \$275 million third baseman off the baseball field.

Major League Baseball is prepared to suspend Rodriguez for at least 100 games,



according to a person with knowledge of the investigation, for his role with Biogenesis, alleged lies about past performance-enhancing drug use and possible interference in the investigation.

Rodriguez, who has not played this season as he recovers from January hip surgery, remains determined to play this season and fight doping charges despite a 65-game suspension accepted Monday by Milwaukee Brewers left fielder Ryan Braun. The persons close to Rodriguez say he

does not view Braun's case as a comparison for his own.

Yet MLB officials think Rodriguez's history with doping is more extensive than Braun's. In 2009, Rodriguez admitted to steroid use from 2001 to 2003 while playing for the Texas Rangers. He had a relationship with Anthony Galea, a doctor convicted for smuggling performance-enhancing drugs. MLB also is probing whether he attempted to destroy evidence in the Biogenesis investigation.

On July 12 in Tampa, Rodriguez and his lawyers met for 4½ hours with MLB investigators, who disclosed evidence that Rodriguez purchased and was administered performance-enhancing drugs from the now-shuttered Biogenesis clinic. The level of Rodriguez's cooperation was unknown, but he publicly has denied involvement with clinic director Tony Bosch or the facility.

NFL: Hernandez murder charge a 'sad day' - Belichick



NEW YORK (AFP) - Famously taciturn New England coach Bill Belichick said Wednesday he was shocked and saddened by the case that has former Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez facing a murder charge.

Speaking publicly about the case for the first time as the NFL team gathered for training camp, Belichick offered his sympathy to the family of the victim and said the Patriots would continue to review their methods of evaluating players.

Hernandez was arrested on June 26 and charged with murder in the death of Odin Lloyd on June 17.

Hernandez appeared briefly in court on Wednesday in Attleboro, Massachusetts, where Judge Daniel O'Shea agreed to prosecutors' request to reschedule a probable cause hearing for August 22.

Belichick declined to answer specific questions about the case, or whether he had been in touch with Hernandez, saying he had been advised not to comment on an ongoing legal case.

But however Hernandez's case turns out, Belichick made it clear the matter had shaken the entire Patriots club.

"Having someone involved in your organization that's involved in a murder investigation is a terrible thing." "It's really a sad day on so many levels," Belichick said.

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UEFA Women's Euro



GOTHENBURG - Dzsenifer Marozsán ended the hosts' UEFA Women's EURO 2013 dream, settling the semi-final the holders' way with a tidy 33rd-minute goal. A lone goal from Dzsenifer Marozsán booked Germany a place in Sunday's UEFA Women's EURO 2013 final, where they will play either Denmark or Norway as they bid to win their sixth successive continental title.

MLB Standings

| American League | | | | | National League | | | | |
|-----------------|----|----|------|------|-----------------|----|----|------|------|
| East | W | L | Pct | GB | East | W | L | Pct | GB |
| BOSTON | 61 | 41 | .598 | -- | ATLANTA | 56 | 44 | .560 | -- |
| TAMPA | 59 | 42 | .584 | 1.5 | PHILADELPHIA | 49 | 51 | .490 | 7.0 |
| BALTIMORE | 57 | 44 | .564 | 3.5 | WASHINGTON | 48 | 52 | .480 | 8.0 |
| YANKEES | 53 | 47 | .530 | 7.0 | NY METS | 44 | 52 | .458 | 11.0 |
| TORONTO | 45 | 54 | .455 | 14.5 | MIAMI | 37 | 61 | .378 | 19.0 |
| Central | W | L | Pct | GB | Central | W | L | Pct | GB |
| DETROIT | 55 | 44 | .556 | -- | ST. LOUIS | 60 | 37 | .619 | -- |
| CLEVELAND | 52 | 48 | .520 | 3.5 | PITTSBURGH | 59 | 39 | .602 | 1.5 |
| KANSAS | 46 | 51 | .474 | 8.0 | CINCINNATI | 57 | 44 | .564 | 5.0 |
| MINNESOTA | 43 | 54 | .443 | 11.0 | CHICAGO | 44 | 54 | .449 | 16.5 |
| CHICAGO | 39 | 58 | .402 | 15.0 | MILWAUKEE | 41 | 58 | .414 | 20.0 |
| West | W | L | Pct | GB | West | W | L | Pct | GB |
| OAKLAND | 58 | 42 | .580 | -- | DODGERS | 52 | 47 | .525 | -- |
| TEXAS | 55 | 45 | .550 | 3.0 | ARIZONA | 52 | 48 | .520 | 0.5 |
| SEATTLE | 48 | 52 | .480 | 10.0 | COLORADO | 48 | 53 | .475 | 5.0 |
| LA ANGELES | 46 | 52 | .469 | 11.0 | SAN FRANCISCO | 46 | 54 | .460 | 6.5 |
| HOUSTON | 34 | 65 | .343 | 23.5 | SAN DIEGO | 45 | 56 | .446 | 8.0 |

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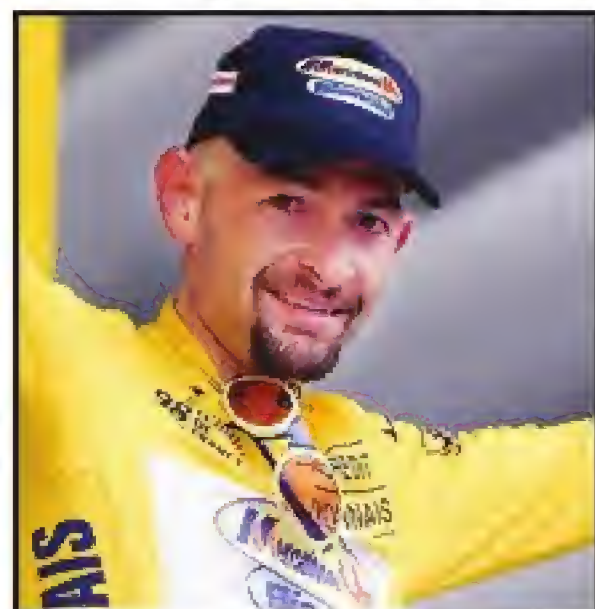
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Pantani, Ullrich unveiled as EPO cheats by French drugs commission



Marco Pantini - file photo

PARIS (AFP) - Italian Marco Pantani and Germany's Jan Ullrich both used the banned blood-booster erythropoietin (EPO) during the 1998 Tour de France, a damning French parliamentary commission report said Wednesday.

Pantani, who died of a cocaine overdose in 2004, won the controversial 1998 race, with Ullrich taking second place.

The findings, which serve as concrete proof of cycling's dark past, identified a host of other EPO cheats, including top sprinters Erik Zabel of Germany and Italian Mario Cipollini.

Others to be named and shamed were Italians Andrea Tafi, Nicolas Minali, Fabio Sacchi, Spanish world champion Abraham Olano and his compatriots Marcos Serrano and Manuel Beltran, German Jens Heppner and Dutch rider Jeroen Blijlevens.

A trio of French riders were also found to have doped with EPO in the 1998 Tour - Lau-

rent Jalabert, Jacky Durand and Laurent Desbiens, the commission's report revealed.

Denmark's Bo Hamburger and American Kevin Livingstone also resorted to the performance enhancer in 1998 and 1999.

The report tells of a time when EPO was the illegal fuel propelling the peloton - no reliable test for the banned substance became available until 2001.

The commission, though, found no hard evidence that American Bobby Julich, who was third, also used EPO, as Le Monde newspaper had reported Tuesday.

The French senators claim that doping is "a persistent problem...throughout the history of sport, where the presence of a code of silence is a complex factor".

Among their proposals to combat drug taking are the setting up of a "truth and reconciliation" commission, beefing up the power of the French anti-doping agency, handing over dope testing to national agencies rather than each sport's international federation, and improved sharing of information between the different agencies involved in combating doping.

Wednesday's findings were based on comparisons made of retrospective testing results from 2004 and a list of samples from the 1998 Tour de France and the 1999 race won by disgraced US rider Lance Armstrong.

Football: Argentine star Saviola joins Olympiakos

PIRAEUS (AFP) - Argentine striker Javier Saviola has signed a two-year contract with Olympiakos, the Greek champions announced on Wednesday.

The 31-year-old former Real Madrid and Barcelona marksman was welcomed by some 2,500 Olympiakos supporters outside the club's headquarters after meeting with club president Vangelis Marinakis to finalise the deal.

Greek media reported that Saviola will receive a yearly salary of 1.6 million euros plus a bonus of 400,000 euros. The diminutive forward has won 40 caps for Argentina, scoring 11 goals, and arrives from Spaniards Malaga.

He also played for Portuguese giants Benfica after beginning his career at River Plate, while Monaco and Sevilla count amongst his former clubs.

The Buenos Aires native has won domestic titles in Argentina, Spain and Portugal as well as the 2006 UEFA Cup with Sevilla and the Olympic gold medal at Athens in 2004.

He was named the South American player of the year at just 19 in 1999 while still at River Plate, which attracted the attention of Barcelona where he spent six seasons at the beginning of his European adventure.

Athletics: Powell, Simpson vow to keep running

KINGSTON (AFP) - Sprinters Asafa Powell and Sherone Simpson, still awaiting their fates in the doping scandal that has rocked Jamaican athletics, have vowed to return to the sport.

"I have never thought about it (retiring)," Powell said in comments published in the Jamaica Gleaner, adding that he was "shocked" when he learned he had tested positive for the banned stimulant oxilofrine at Jamaica's world championship trials in June.

Powell and Simpson, who tested positive for the same stimulant, were both awaiting the results of their B samples and the impending hearing that will determine their fates.

Both face a possible three-month ban and both are expected to miss next month's IAAF World Championships in Moscow.

Powell, 30, and the former world record-holder in the men's 100m, has even hinted he could stay around until the 2016 Olympics in Rio.

"I am still training. I consider this an off year, but I am still working hard, training, going to the gym almost every day," said Powell, who finished a disappointing seventh in the 100m at the trials but

hoped for a relay berth in Moscow.

"It's very unfortunate that I will not be going to the World Championships, but there is a lot more to go. There is a World Championships, in two years' time again and then the Olympics. So there is a lot to look forward to."

Simpson, who finished second in both the women's 100m and 200m at the trials to book her World Championship berths, also said she expected to continue in the sport.

"For me, no retirement, it was not in my thoughts," said Simpson, who shared the 100m silver at the 2008 Olympics with compatriot Kerron Stewart in a sensational tie behind Jamaican Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce.

She said she was shocked when she received the call while in Madrid, where she was to have competed in the 100m and had to ask Doctor Herb Elliott, chairman of the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission, if he was sure that he had the right name.

Both athletes, through their agent Paul Doyle, have mentioned supplements they were given by Canadian trainer Chris Xeureb as a possible cause for the positive tests.

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